

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed October 2, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1 and 5-12 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, such as for better form including beginning the dependent claims with 'The', and deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Claims 1 and 5-12 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings because arrow 20 recited in the specification is not shown in the

drawings. In response, arrow 20 has been added to FIG 2. A replacement sheet including FIG 2 is enclosed. Applicants respectfully request approval of the enclosed proposed drawing changes and withdrawal of the drawing objection.

In the Office Action, the Examiner suggested adding headings to the specification. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's suggestion, however respectfully decline to add the headings as they are not required in accordance with MPEP §608.01(a), and could be inappropriately used in interpreting the specification. Further, the specification is objected to for a certain informality. In response, the specification has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion as well as for correction of a typographical error and for better conformance to U.S. practice. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 10-11 for certain informalities. In response, claims 10-11 have been amended to remove the informalities noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 10-11 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. Without agreeing with the Examiner, and in the interest of advancing prosecution, claim 3 has been amended to remove the alleged informality noted by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 3 and 7 has been overcome and an indication as such is respectfully requested.


In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 4, 6 and 9-11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 4, 6 and 9-11 contain patentable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 4 and intervening claims 2-3 which have been canceled without prejudice. In addition, claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 9 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5-8 and 10-13 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 9.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Dicran Halajian, Reg. 39,703  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
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Enclosure: Replacement drawing sheet (1 sheet including FIG 2)  
New Abstract

**THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP**  
Applied Technology Center  
111 West Main Street  
Bay Shore, NY 11706  
Tel: (631) 665-5139  
Fax: (631) 665-5101